



January 17, 2025

To Members of the Fort Collins City Council:

The League of Women Voters of Larimer County supports the call for an independent authority with quasi-judicial powers to oversee elections in the City of Fort Collins and conduct other important election-related duties. An oversight authority could help our community in these ways:

- Train potential candidates about compliance with election codes and keep training materials up to date (with the assistance of the City Clerk's office staff);
- Conduct audits of all campaign finance reports as they are submitted;
- Adjudicate complaints as they come in, including completing closure of the complaint;
- Recommend changes to the City's Election Code as referenced in the City Charter and Ordinances;
- Answer questions from the public and candidates during the election season.

This authority would also alleviate work overload in the Clerk's office during election season, eliminate the conflict of interest with the City Attorney and City Clerk, and stand ready to help City Council fix loopholes while adopting best practices for independent oversight. It would replace the current mechanism of oversight, which is through citizen or candidate complaint submissions.

Oversight is essential to maintaining the health of democratic processes, ensuring fair elections, and promoting accountability in political campaigns. When candidates are given money for a campaign, the public needs confidence that the funds are being used legally and as intended. The establishment of a fair and independent election oversight authority with quasi-judicial powers could serve to enhance public trust in our elections.

We encourage the City Council to work toward establishing an election oversight authority.

Sincerely,

Pat Burger, President

League of Women Voters of Larimer County  
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***Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.***